

CONGRESS TAKES A REST

Longest Session in the History of the Government.

An Epitome of Work Done.

After a session lasting 321 days the first ending of the 56th congress adjourned on both ends. The longest previous session was in 1878, ending on the 10th of March. In the protracted but interesting discussion of the tariff question in both houses, the unparalleled deadlock in the consideration of the bill to refund the direct tax, and in the house the recent rainy days, but in none more than the enormous number of measures introduced in branches of congress. In the senate 100 bills and 116 joint resolutions were sent; and in the house 1,000 bills and 230 joint resolutions, making a grand total of 1,585 measures introduced in one session. In the senate 2,354 measures were voted back from committee and placed on the calendar; a much larger proportion than in the house where 8,365 measures were total number of 11,828 still slumber in committee rooms. Among the measures of public interest that have become laws are:

- Voluntary contributions to the relief of the famine in China.
- Relating to permissible marks on mail matter.
- For the division of the Sioux reservation.
- For a conference with the South and Central American nations.
- Limiting the power of carrying mail matter.
- For the general of the army.
- To establish a permanent labor law.
- For an international conference.
- Regarding the Pacific railroad companies to maintain the right of way.
- To prohibit the employment of Chinese laborers in the United States.
- For the establishment of rules in respect to the Sault Ste. Marie and other places.
- To create boards of arbitration to settle controversies between common carriers and their clients.
- To prevent the employment of Chinese laborers in this country.
- To aid state homes for disabled soldiers.
- Changing the date for the meeting of electoral college.

Among the bills that is in conference with the house are, two bills of first importance, namely: Repealing pre-emption and timber culture laws providing a general homestead law, declaring a forfeiture of unearned railroad lands. Pending in the senate is the house tariff bill and the senate tariff bill.

The senate passed bills to divide Dakota and admit the southern half as a state and to amend the southern homestead law (in bill), but they never reached the stage for action. In the senate the same stage can be said of the following bills which passed the house: The fisheries regulation bill; the bill to amend the act of fractional silver certificates; allowing the regulation by states of railways owned by the United States.

The following are the most important bills which passed the house: For the readmission of Manitoba and Washington territories; to prohibit the alcoholic liquor sale; to declare trusts unlawful.

The following measures of importance were rejected from the senate calendar, and still on the house calendar: To refund direct tax (a vote on which will be taken early in December next under an agreement by which the memorable deadlock of this bill was broken); for the payment of arrears of pensions; requiring the statement of the national bank redemption fund in circulating notes; the Pacific road funding bill (debated, but never reached the point of action); to include telegraph companies under the revenue laws; to promote commerce with Canada; to incorporate the Nicaragua canal company; for the organization of the territory of Oklahoma (debated, but never reached the point of action).

The following are important senate bills which slumber in committee: Requesting president to open negotiations with Great Britain looking to the annexation of Canada to the United States; for the free trade with silver; to repeal the obnoxious act; to provide a naval reserve; the Aspin canal bill; to reduce letter postage to one cent; to grant woman suffrage; measures proposing radical changes in government's management.

The following are original house bills which likewise never got out of committee: To repeal the internal revenue laws on the tobacco tax; to prohibit the mail of newspapers and newspapers; to provide a gradual income tax; to repeal the civil service law; for full reciprocity between the United States and Canada; directing judicial proceedings to be brought against the railroads; to provide an efficient service between the United States and South America; to break up trusts; various other measures proposing changes in our pension, tariff and financial laws.

Among the most important private bills of this session were those pensioning Mrs. Logan, Mrs. Frank A. Blair, both of which became law, and the bills to pension Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Sheridan which passed the senate but were never acted upon by the house.

THREE TERRITORIES.

Governors of Dakota, New Mexico and Idaho Make Their Reports.

E. K. Church, governor of Dakota, in his annual report says that the white population of the territory during the year 1898 was 72,836 in a total population of 640,823. A quantity of land newly filed on and phased for settlement during the year 1898 was 2,000 acres. The report of F. R. Carpenter, governor of New Mexico, which states that the mining industry of the Black Hills is taking on new life. As to the discovery of tin in the Black Hills the governor remarks that there is not any way of knowing the extent of the tin in the Black Hills in the markets. In conclusion, he states that Dakota be admitted as a state into the union.

G. Ross, governor of New Mexico, in his report says that the white population of the territory has increased during the year about 10,000. The aggregate value of taxable property in the territory is given as \$44,431,597. Of this amount, \$5,700,000 is live stock; \$7,400,000 on lands and \$3,585,000 on houses and improvements. One hundred and eighty-four thousand acres of land have been entered during the year by miners. The progress made in agriculture during the year, the report says, is very satisfactory. The agricultural press has been in its educational interests.

Edward A. Stevenson, governor of Idaho, states the population of that territory at 109,000. The value of taxable property is \$21,588,222, which his report says is about one-half of its actual value in 1898. A report from the United States office at Boise City shows the gold, silver and lead production of the territory for the year \$9,905,136, which and the gold and silver \$2,200,230, the silver \$3,422,057 and the gold \$9,685,183.

Calamity in Italy.

A dispatch from Potenza says that ten or twelve persons were killed and many others injured in a crowd of persons running from the Naples feast on the 21st were crushed in a remote portion of the district by a landslide consisting of fifty meters of rock. The telegraph being cut off, the full details of the disaster delayed two hours. The scene that followed the disaster was horrible. Seventy dead passengers and ninety corpses have been taken from the wreck. There are still many bodies beneath the rock, and it is feared that the list of the dead will be increased. The work of excavation continues.

War in Haiti.

General Haytien, Port de Paix and General Gonsalves, Port de Paix, are the only forces remaining. The proclamation has been issued to the inhabitants of the province giving the details of the assassination of General Telemache by the enemies of the revolution, and says the north will remain loyal to the revolution. The revolutionaries to see the accomplishment of the demands of those who planned and executed the murder.